



Texas Department of Health

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FROM: Phillip W. Walker, Chief
Bureau of Kidney Health Care

TO: Kidney Health Care Advisory Committee Members
Texas Renal Coalition Members

SUBJ: Notice of Public Hearing Concerning Texas Department of Health (TDH)
Exceptional Items for the FY 2004 – 2005 Biennium

DATE: July 8, 2002

A meeting of the Budget Committee of the Texas Board of Health will be held on Thursday, July 18, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., in Room T-607 of the Tower Building, Texas Department of Health, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss proposed requests for appropriations over current spending (exceptional items) for the FY 2004 – 2005 biennium. The meeting is an open meeting and time will be allocated for public comment.

The Exceptional Item submitted for Kidney Health Care (KHC) totals \$3.6 million for FY 2004 and \$6.5 million for FY 2005 and will allow KHC to maintain current program benefits for medical, travel, and drug services for a client caseload that is expected to grow from a current annual growth rate of 7% to 10% during each year of the next biennium. The number of clients is projected to increase from 22,876 in FY 2003 to 25,164 in FY 2004, and to 27,680 in FY 2005.

At their meeting of January 11, 2002, the KHC Advisory Committee recommended several other proposed exceptional items, including excluding antibiotic drugs from the current KHC drug limit and expanding the existing drug benefit. The exclusion of antibiotic drugs from the monthly drug limit is currently being considered by TDH Executive Management and, hopefully, this benefit change will be approved for implementation within the current appropriation. This benefit change will allow patients to receive needed antibiotic medications without using their monthly drug limit.

I encourage you to attend this meeting, not only as members of the Kidney Health Care Advisory Committee or the Texas Renal Coalition, but also as members of the end-stage renal disease community. The Board values your input regarding the impact of impending funding decisions on Texans with end-stage renal disease. The input that you provide will assist them as they make decisions regarding the TDH Legislative Appropriations Request to be presented to the Governor's Budget Office and the Legislative Budget Board (LBB). If you have any questions regarding the meeting, feel free to call me at 512/834-6770.